



CourseCast of the Week – May 2007 – Episode 5

Key Topics:

- Colleges vs. the RIAA & Congress
- The evolution or de-evolution of the written word
- New Cell Phone Developments
- Summer Fun on the Web
- News Briefs

Talk About It:

1. What is text messaging? When is it used? What are some of the words that are shortened? What punctuation shortcuts are taken? Do you find yourself abbreviating these same words when writing? Is this a trend that you should be concerned about? (The evolution or de-evolution of the written word)
2. What is a Wi-Fi network? What should an “electronic wallet” be able to do? What are the advantages and disadvantages of this type of technology? Would you be willing to pay an additional cost for this new technology? (New Cell Phone Developments)

Explore Technology:

1. Ask students to visit the following websites: www.joost.com; www.twitter.com; www.flickr.com. Compare and contrast each of these websites with ones they currently are familiar with (MySpace, YouTube, Facebook, etc.). (Summer Fun on the Web)
2. Ask students to visit three cell phone companies’ websites. What new technologies are partnering with the cell phone companies? (News Briefs)

Think Critically:

1. What is wrong with sharing music over the Internet? Why does the RIAA prosecute individuals who share music over the Internet? Why do you think the RIAA is targeting university students? If you get caught, what happens next? (Colleges vs. the RIAA & Congress)
2. When two companies (Microsoft and Yahoo!) are merged, what considerations need to be taken into account for the merger to happen? Government? Shareholders? Technology? Employees? Restructuring? Can you think of others? (News Briefs)